

Maurice Hinchey NEWS

26TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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HINCHEY CONDEMNS CLEAN AIR ROLLBACKS

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-26) today issued the following statement in response to the Environmental Protection Agency's announcement of changes in the New Source Review program:

"I am dismayed but not surprised at the Bush Administration's announcement today that EPA is gutting the Clean Air Act. In an administration that has made a regular habit of weakening environmental protections, this is its most far-reaching assault on our environmental laws yet.

"The Clean Air Act has effectively reduced air pollution by nearly 30 percent since 1970 and the New Source Review program has been a key component of that progress. NSR protects public health and the environment by ensuring that when large industrial facilities upgrade and increase their air emissions, they must install modern pollution control technology. NSR has prevented millions of tons of smog-forming chemicals from being released into the air.

"Due to this decision, increased pollution from coal-fired smokestacks will make our acid rain problems worse, further damaging our lakes, streams and forests. Allowing the nation's dirtiest power plants to increase their output without new pollution controls will adversely impact the health of New Yorkers by increasing air pollution in our state. With more and more children suffering from asthma and respiratory illnesses, now is not the time to weaken air standards for big polluters such as power plants, refineries and chemical plants."